

The **DELAWARE MONEY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** promotes independent living for older people on a limited income who are at risk because they cannot manage their financial affairs and cannot get help from friends or family.

The program's trained volunteers provide clients with the money management assistance they need for daily living.

Gratitude is expressed to the 141st General Assembly for their support of legislation creating the **DELAWARE MONEY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**.

Delaware Money Management Program

Delaware Health & Social Services
Division of Services for Aging and
Adults with Physical Disabilities
1901 N. DuPont Highway
Main Annex 1st Floor
New Castle, Delaware 19720

302.255.9380
800.223.9074
TTY: 302.453.3831
www.dsaapd.com
www.aarpmmp.org
e-mail: dmmp@state.de.us

AARP Delaware
1100 North Market Street, Suite 1201
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

302.498.6501
www.aarp.org/de

DELAWARE Money Management Program



DELAWARE Money Management Program

About the Delaware Money
Management Program

You or someone you know may need a little help in managing his or her financial affairs. Usually family and friends step in to provide assistance, but there are many — especially older folks — who may not have someone to turn to for help.

Many Delawareans have special needs because they are no longer able to handle their financial affairs on their own. They either lose their benefit checks or do not remember how they spent the money they received. They forget to pay their rent or monthly bills — and in some cases, have been evicted from their homes or had the electricity cut off — even though they had enough money in their bank accounts to make the necessary payments.

The Delaware Money Management Program, cosponsored by the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and AARP, has been created to provide assistance to older adults who are on a limited income or adults who have a physical disability and need help organizing and paying their bills. Trained volunteers will provide help with financial matters so clients can continue to live independently, without worry.

How do you know if you may need assistance?

Here are a few questions to answer to help you determine if you may need assistance from the Delaware Money Management Program:

- ☒ Do you have difficulty balancing your checkbook or handling your day-to-day financial affairs?
- ☒ Do you occasionally bounce checks due to the inability to manage your checking account?
- ☒ Have you left utility bills unpaid or have you had any of your utilities shut off?
- ☒ Are you under the threat of eviction or the loss of your home due to foreclosure?
- ☒ Do you have problems reading or writing due to poor vision, injury or disability?
- ☒ Have you been a victim of financial exploitation or financial abuse?
- ☒ Do you or your spouse have a serious illness that leaves you little time to manage your financial affairs?



**DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**
Division Of Services For Aging
And Adults With Physical Disabilities



delaware
money
management
program

How do you know if you qualify?

To qualify for assistance, Delaware Money Management Program clients must be a low-income senior or an adult with a physical disability. As of 2004, annual income for a single person may not exceed \$20,778 or \$1,732 per month; couples' annual income may not exceed \$29,402 or \$2,450 per month. Individuals must have liquid assets of no more than \$30,000; this includes but is not limited to cash savings, certificates of deposit, stocks or bonds. Please note, AARP adjusts and establishes the income and asset levels annually. Clients may own their own home; only Delaware residents are eligible to participate in this program. Potential clients may be referred when they find difficulty handling their day-to-day finances and have no family or friends who are available to help.

If you meet the eligibility requirements and can answer "yes" to any of the questions noted above, you may qualify for assistance from the Delaware Money Management Program. For additional information and/or to apply, please call 302.255.9380 or toll free 800.223.9074.

How We Can Help?

Our volunteers have the desire to help others remain financially secure and independent. There are two ways our Delaware Money Management Volunteers provide assistance to their clients.

Our **Bill Payer Volunteers** work closely with their clients by opening and organizing mail and bills, developing a household budget and preparing

checks for their client's signature. Clients are still in control of their own finances — but get a little help to keep things in order. Although some clients are served on a short-term basis, the majority are assisted on a long-term basis.

Our **Representative Payee Volunteers** provide assistance to clients who are no longer able to manage finances on their own. Appointed by the Social Security Administration or another government agency, our volunteers manage the monthly benefits their clients receive. Volunteers oversee their client's finances by writing and signing checks from an account in which a benefit check is automatically deposited.

Because of the sensitivity of the type of transactions that will be involved, there are a number of safeguards in place to protect both our volunteers and our clients including:

- AARP provides limited insurance coverage of client funds.
- Volunteers must undergo extensive background checks including state and federal criminal background fingerprinting as well as Adult Abuse Registry and Child Abuse Registry checks.
- Volunteers are trained and provided with ongoing support from the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities.
- Volunteers work from one designated account with a \$3,500 limit.
- Volunteer activity and client accounts are monitored on a monthly basis.

Delaware Money Management Volunteers receive training prior to being paired with a client. Volunteers are located within close proximity to their client's home. Although the time commitment will vary from client to client, most volunteers meet with clients one to two times per month for about one and a half to two hours per visit. Volunteers also receive in-service trainings quarterly throughout the year and receive ongoing support from the Delaware Money Management Program Administrator and AARP.

For more information about how you can become a client or a volunteer, please call 302.255.9380 or 800.223.9074.

Delaware Money Management Program Partners

The **Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities** is one of eleven divisions within Delaware Health and Social Services. Their mission is to improve or maintain the quality of life for Delawareans who are adults with physical disabilities or who are elderly. The Division is committed to the development and delivery of consumer-driven services which maximize independence through individual choice, enable individuals to continue living active and productive lives and protect those who may be vulnerable and at risk.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to making life better for people 50 and over. AARP provides information and resources; engages in legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy; assists members in serving their communities; and offers a wide range of unique benefits, special products, and services for members.

The **AARP Money Management Program**, created in 1981, is a daily money management service helping low-income older or disabled persons who have difficulty budgeting, paying routine bills and keeping track of financial matters. The program operates in partnership with state and local agencies including Area Agencies on Aging, Departments of Social Services, churches, private non-profits, and case management agencies. The Money Management Program, an AARP Foundation program, currently has 130 sites in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

The **AARP Foundation** is AARP's affiliated charity. Foundation programs provide security, protection and empowerment for older persons in need. Foundation programs are funded by grants, tax-deductible contributions and AARP.